



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,072	04/08/2004	Shinichi Hasegawa	09812.0524-00000	2104
22852	7590	08/04/2008		
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER LLP 901 NEW YORK AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4413			EXAMINER TO, TUAN C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3663	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/04/2008 PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

# Office Action Summary

## Application No.

10/822,072

## Applicant(s)

HASEGAWA ET AL.

## Examiner

TUAN C. TO

## Art Unit

3663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, and 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 August 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/S508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 12, 14, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll et al. (US 20030097211A1) and in view of Lightner et al. (US 6636790B1).

As to claims 1 and 14, as set forth in paragraph 0027, Carroll et al. discloses the remote service provider (150) that maintains a user database (154) and a service database (152) which stores various types of data such as service data for various automotive services and vehicle models (paragraph 0027, lines 10 and 11), software applications, specifications, parameter, user's manual, and other data related to vehicle diagnoses. In paragraph 0036, Carroll et al. teaches that a user can submit a request to access a web page from the remote service provider (150). The web pages contain user information for the user to retrieve data stored in service database (152) into user database (154). At this point, it is clear that the database (154) stores the vehicle model information downloaded from the service database (152). In addition, the user interface disclosed shown in figure 3b including a layout of screen, thus the storage device (21) as seen in figure 2 comprises information necessary for layout screen as seen in figures 3b-3d.

Carroll et al. further teaches the computer system (200) for recognizing vehicle model based on the input signal from the user interface (Carroll et al., figure 2, page 3, paragraph 0037).

Carroll et al. further teaches the function setting means (32) (Carroll et al. figure 3b and figure 3c) that are used to set the design information related to function or operation of the vehicle (Carroll et al., figure 3d, including a list of design data-manufacturer, year, model has been set).

Carroll et al. further teaches a display device for displaying function design of the vehicle set by said buttons (Carroll et al., figure 2, display 212).

Carroll et al. merely fails to disclose "getting means for automatically getting vehicle model information from the vehicle by determining a shape of a connector used to attach onboard apparatus to the vehicle, the vehicle model information being peculiar to the vehicle".

Carroll et al. merely fails to disclose "getting means for automatically getting vehicle model information from the vehicle by determining a shape of a connector used to attach the navigation system to the vehicle" or "getting vehicle model information from the vehicle by determining a formed position of a connector used to attach the navigation system to the vehicle".

Lightner et al. teaches a system/method for characterizing a vehicle's performance in which is data collector/router (35), which is contained a small, portable housing that plugs directly into the connector (120) (see figure 2; column 6, lines 56-59), wherein said connector (120) is a serial, 16-cavity layout (see column 6, lines 60-64). The collector/router (35) comprising a processor electrical contact with said connector (see figure 2) to acquire vehicle model information by determining a shape of said connector (see column 6, lines 26-35, and lines 60-67; column 7, lines 1-7).

Hence, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system/method as taught by Carroll et al. to include the teaching as taught by Lightner et al. so that a vehicle can be remotely diagnosed from a control service center based on the received diagnostic data from the vehicle.

As to claims 12, and 16, Carroll et al. teaches that the layout screen in figures 3b and 3c includes selection box for user setting a specific data to model, year of the a vehicle, and therefore in order to that happen, the storage devices shown in figure 2 should store function setting information.

Claims 2 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll et al. (US 20030097211A1), Lightner et al. (US 6636790B1), and further in view of Kataghishi (US 20040210363A1).

Carroll et al. teaches an on-board apparatus mounted on a vehicle comprising: a getting means for getting vehicle model information. For example, in figure 3a, the user interface provides a list of vehicle' country (vehicle model information) for user to select.

Carroll et al. teaches the computer system (200) for recognizing vehicle model based on the input signal from the user interface (Carroll et al., figure 2, page 3, paragraph 0037).

Carroll et al. further teaches a function setting means which is button (32) (Carroll et al. figure 3b) and another button shown in figure 3c. All of said buttons are utilized to set the design information related to function or operation of the vehicle (Carroll et al., figure 3d, including a list of design data-manufacturer, year, model has been set). Carroll et al. further teaches a display device for displaying function design of the vehicle set by said buttons (Carroll et al., figure 2, display 212). Carroll et al. fails to teach storage means for storing the vehicle model information and related design information of function information.

Lightner et al. teaches a system/method for characterizing a vehicle's performance in which is data collector/router (35), which is contained a small, portable housing that plugs directly into the connector (120) (see figure 2; column 6, lines 56-59), wherein said connector (120) is a serial, 16-cavity layout (see column 6, lines 60-64). The collector/router (35) comprising a processor electrical contact with said connector (see figure 2) to acquire vehicle model information by determining a shape of said connector (see column 6, lines 26-35, and lines 60-67; column 7, lines 1-7).

The reference to Katagishi et al. provided to cure the missing features from Carrol et al. and Lightner et al. by teaching an on-board apparatus to be mounted on a vehicle (Katagishi et al, figure 1, onboard apparatus 3), wherein said on-board apparatus (3) comprises a storage device (34) that stores vehicle model information such as manufacturer ID, car ID, etc. (Katagishi et al., page 3, paragraph 0032, line 7).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the onboard apparatus as taught by Carroll et al. and Lightner et al. to include the storage device that stores vehicle model information as taught by Katagishi et al. in order to retrieves download information related to a vehicle from a list of vehicle that have previously had vehicle repair services.

Claims 13 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll et al. (US 20030097211A1), Lightner et al. (US 6636790B1), and further in view of Borgesson (US 20050203684A1).

Carroll et al. and Lightner et al. fail to include "function setting information comprises at least one of a navigation function, a mileage measuring function, and a night-vision function".

Borgesson teaches a vehicle control system and method including "function setting information comprises at least one of a navigation function, a mileage measuring function, and a night-vision function" (see paragraph 0080).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the teachings of Borgesson into the system of Carroll et al. and Lightner et al. so that the operator user can keep track on the mileage history of a selected vehicle via a screen.

#### ***Response to Applicant's Arguments***

The pre-appeal conference was held on 07/23/2008. The previous final rejection has been withdrawn.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, and 12-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### ***Conclusions***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.



Art Unit: 3663

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Tuan C To/

Primary Examiner of Art Unit 3663/3600

July 31, 2008

